



John >

iMessage  
Oct 6, 2017, 11:51 AM

On my way.

Ron Jarmin  
Acting Director,  
Bureau of the Census  
US Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Mr Jarmin:

We are writing to formally request the reinstatement of a question on the 2020 Census questionnaire relating to citizenship. The Department seeks to reinstate the question because of recent Court decisions

\_\_\_\_\_ where courts required enumerated (block level) data related to voting age population. This data can only be provided based on enumerated (Census), rather than sample (ACS) data.

We are aware that the 2010 Census was the first decennial census since the 1880 Census without a question about citizenship. We also note that the American Community Survey, which replaced the "long form" version of the questionnaire in the decennial 2000 Census, asks a question about citizenship. We are not aware that of any serious concerns relating to the presence of a citizenship question on the ACS.

We understand that the Bureau personnel may believe that ACS data on citizenship was sufficient for redistricting purposes. We wanted the Bureau to be aware that two recent Court cases have underscored that ACS data is not viable and/or sufficient for purposes of redistricting. Two important citations from these cases are as follows:

\_\_\_ Bartlett v Simpson, Iulac v perry

"Relevant numbers must account for citizenship in order to determine the group's opportunity to elect candidates in order to determine the groups opportunity to elect candidates. . . pg 4 Iulac v perry

We note that in these two cases, one in 2006 and one in 2009, courts reviewing compliance with requirements of the Voting Rights Act and its application in legislative redistricting, have required Latino voting districts to contain 50% + 1 of "Citizen Voting Age Population for CVAP). It is clear that full compliance with these Federal Court decisions will require block level data than can only be secured by a mandatory question in the 2020 enumeration. Our understanding is that data on citizenship is specifically required to ensure that the Latino community achieves full representation in redistricting



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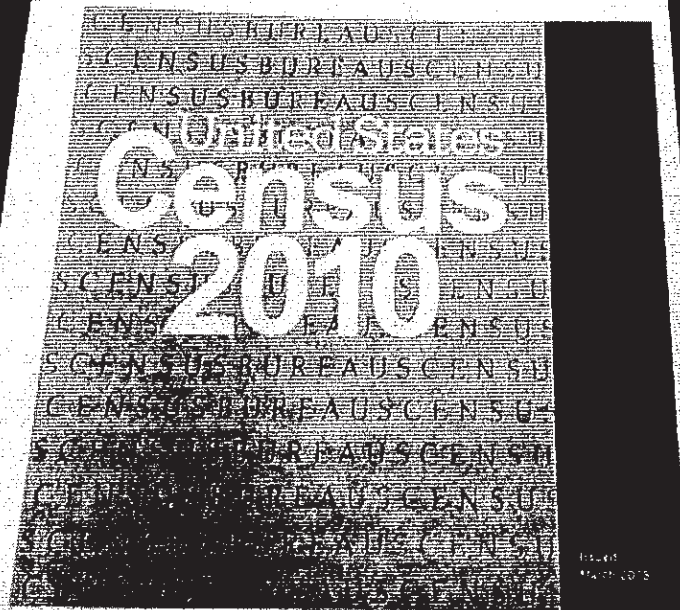
We note that in these two cases, one in 2006 and one in 2009, courts reviewing compliance with requirements of the Voting Rights Act and its application in legislative redistricting, have required Latino voting districts to contain 50% + 1 of "Citizen Voting Age Population (or CVAP). It is clear that full compliance with these Federal Court decisions will require block level data than can only be secured by a mandatory question in the 2020 enumeration. Our understanding is that data on citizenship is specifically required to ensure that the Latino community achieves full representation in redistricting.

We accordingly request that the Bureau prepare, without delay, the appropriate question on citizenship for the 2020 Census, and submit this addition for 2020 Census for OMB Review and other appropriate notifications.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this letter or wish to discuss this subject. I can be reached at (202) ----- or \_\_\_\_\_@doj.gov.

Sincerely yours,  
Attachment.

# Questions Planned for the 2010 Census and American Community Survey



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic and Statistical Administration  
U.S. Census Bureau

United States  
Census  
2010

PLACE OF BIRTH asked since 1850  
CITIZENSHIP asked 1820, 1830, 1870, since 1890  
YEAR OF ENTRY asked 1890, 1930, since 1970

Where was this person born?  
☐ In the United States - Print name of place

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# United States Census 2010

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic and Statistics Administration  
11 Census Bureau

United States  
Census  
2010

**PLACE OF BIRTH** asked since 1850  
**CITIZENSHIP** asked 1820, 1870, since 1890  
**YEAR OF ENTRY** asked 1890, 1940, since 1970

2. Where was this person born?

☐ In the United States. Print name of state.

☐ Outside the United States. Print name of foreign country or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

3. Is this person a citizen of the United States?

☐ Yes, born in the United States or born in U.S. Puerto Islands or Northern Mariana Islands.

☐ Yes, born abroad of U.S. citizen parent or parents.

☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization. Print year of naturalization.

☐ No, not a U.S. citizen.

4. When did this person come to live in the United States? Print number in space.

Year \_\_\_\_\_

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

These questions provide essential data for setting and evaluating immigration policies and laws. Knowing the characteristics of immigrants helps legislators and others understand how different immigrant groups are assimilated. Federal agencies require these data to develop programs for refugees and other foreign born individuals. Vital information on lifetime migration among states also comes from the place of birth question.